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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Belorussia)

DATE DISTR. 31 May 1950

SUBJECT Orsha Airfield

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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.August 1946 - May 1947

1. The airfield with spur track was about eight miles southwest of ORSHA (30°26'E/54°30'N), White Russian SSR (see Annex). A concrete taxiway ran north of the destroyed hangars. The barracks buildings and some of the destroyed buildings were being reconstructed.
2. The airfield was occupied by single-engine and twin-engine aircraft, some of which did formation flying. There was moderate flying activity.

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August 1947

3. The airfield, about six miles south of ORSHA, beside the railroad line to NOGILEV (50°20'E/53°54'N) was about 6,600 x 10,000 feet. PWs were constructing a runway and three hangars. Four former hangars still existed.
4. There was intensive flying. About a hundred aircraft, mostly bombers, were parked on the landing field.

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
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April - July 1948

5. The airfield was about five miles south of ORSHA, west of the Dnepr River and west of a railroad line leading from the south to ORSHA. Much fuel arrived at the field by rail.

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6. There was intensive day and night flying with fighters and twin-engine aircraft. The latter planes towed sleeve targets for firing practice.

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Comment:

a. The about 6,600 x 10,000-foot airfield south of ORSHA has been known since the German occupation in World War II, when it was occupied by several bomber units. There were two runways, six solid hangars, and a repair hangar. The field was heavily damaged by the withdrawing German troops. The information on the reconstruction of the field is considered credible.

b. The statements on little flying in the beginning and an increased flying activity with the progressive reconstruction of the field are understandable.

c. The definite occupation of the field cannot be determined from this report. Besides a twin-engine bomber unit, a fighter unit was apparently also stationed there.

1 Annex: Airfield of ORSHA.

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